



**Board of Governors
of
The State Bar of California**

Resolution

RECOGNIZING

Mediation Week

March 15-21, 2009

Whereas mediation is a dispute resolution process in which a neutral third person facilitates communication between the parties to a dispute to help them reach a mutually acceptable agreement;

Whereas for more than 30 years, California community dispute resolution organizations have used mediation to resolve countless disputes and have been instrumental in the development and operation of mediation programs;

Whereas for more than 25 years, California trial and appellate courts have increasingly encouraged, offered, and provided mediation to assist litigants in resolving a broad array of disputes, including civil, family, juvenile, and criminal matters;

Whereas mediation offers many potential benefits to litigants, the courts, and the public, including increasing the participants' satisfaction with the dispute resolution process and outcome, while reducing pretrial motions and trials, the time from the filing of an action to disposition, future disputes between the parties, recidivism, litigants' costs, and court workloads;

Whereas the availability and success of court mediation programs are largely attributable to the efforts of judicial officers, court staff, and justice partners, including community dispute resolution organizations, local government agencies, state and local bar associations, mediation organizations, and individual mediators, many of whom contribute significant time and resources toward conducting mediations;

Whereas widespread public awareness of the nature, availability, and benefits of mediation and court mediation programs is important to ensuring the use of these programs and access to justice; and

Whereas the Governor and other California state and local officials and agencies traditionally recognize the third week of March as Mediation Week;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California recognizes the week of March 15 through 21, 2009, as Mediation Week, commends the efforts of the individuals and organizations that make mediation and mediation programs available to the citizens of California, and encourages the local bar associations to recognize those individuals and organizations, and publicize local mediation programs during Mediation Week.

Adopted by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California on March 6, 2009.